

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Bangladesh: Tropical storm

DREF operation n° MDRBD006

21 April 2010

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the IFRC in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of IFRC's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 267,129 (USD 250, 677 or EUR 186, 294) has been allocated from IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in delivering immediate assistance to at least 22,500 people (4,500 families). Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

The nor'wester that played havoc in eastern India on the night of 14 April also hit the border districts of Dinajpur, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Kurigram in Bangladesh. Some adjacent districts including Gaibandha, Sirjaganj and Bogra were also affected.

In addition, when affected people in Lalmonirhat started repairing their houses, another nor'wester slashed in some villages on 17 April, killing three people and causing damages to 2,000 dwellings.

Local administration sources confirm that nine people, including one woman, were killed and more than 200 people injured in the tropical storm, caused primarily by collapsed buildings, fallen trees and thunderstorm. 50,000 dwellings, half of which are thatched houses, were partially or completely damaged after wind speeds reached a maximum of 100 km/h. The strong winds and rain also caused damage to crops, trees and power supplies. Tens of thousands of hectares of crops were destroyed in the affected districts. Around 100 education institutions were damaged which will lead to the temporary suspension of academic activities. Household items, including cooking facilities, utensils and food stocks were blown away.



Baby sleeping in a collapsed house in Dangapara Village, Rangpur

Photo credit: BDRCS/IFRC

Most of the affected population has been living in the open air since the storm, trying to construct makeshift dwellings on the site of their original homes.

The government of Bangladesh responded swiftly to the situation. As of 17 April, 718 metric tonnes of rice and BDT 3,685,000 cash (CHF 56,700) was released for distribution amongst the affected population. The injured are receiving medical treatment at neighbouring district and sub-district government hospitals and health centres.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) local units deployed Red Crescent volunteers in aftermath of the storm to evacuate people to safer places, such as schools and other public

buildings. BDRCS national headquarters (NHQ), with support from IFRC, has sent a team to conduct joint rapid assessment.

Whilst the government responded swiftly, the response will undoubtedly be insufficient in terms of covering the total number of affected people. According to the immediate findings of the assessment, needs include food, emergency shelter materials and household items as well as early recovery assistance in the form of transitional shelter materials to rebuild their houses.

This operation is expected to be implemented over four months, and will therefore be completed by 20 August 2010; and a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 20 November 2010).

The IFRC, on behalf of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, would like to thank all donors and partners for their generous support of DREF. Details of all donors can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details, and here for the map of the affected areas>](#)

The situation

The nor'wester that played havoc in eastern India on the night of 14 April 2010 also hit border districts of Dinajpur, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram in Bangladesh. Some adjacent districts including Gaibandha, Sirjaganj and Bogra were also affected.

Local administration sources confirm nine people, including one woman, were killed and more than 200 people injured in the tropical storm, caused primarily by collapsed buildings, fallen trees and thunderstorm. According to the local administration, Red Crescent branches and the media, at least 50,000 dwellings, half of which are thatched houses, were partially or completely damaged after wind speeds reached a maximum of 100 km/h. The strong winds and rain also caused damage to crops, trees and power supplies. Several thousand trees were uprooted and road communication has been disrupted in some places when the storm toppled a number of electric poles causing power cuts in most of the affected areas. The local agricultural department reported tens of thousands of hectares of crops were destroyed in the affected districts. The already poor farmers will now face seed scarcity during the next planting season. Around 100 education institutions were damaged which will lead to the temporary suspension of academic activities.

Most of the affected population have been living in the open air since the storm, trying to construct makeshift shelters on the site of their original homes. Rainfall on the morning of 17 April in some areas has further exacerbated the misery of those currently without adequate shelter. The villages most affected by the storm are constrained by chronic poverty, seasonal unemployment, recurring floods, river erosion and the annual cold wave. It is unlikely they will be able to rebuild their houses without external assistance. Living conditions will worsen if collapsed houses are not rebuilt before the upcoming rainy season.

The Government of Bangladesh responded swiftly to the situation. As of 17 April, 718 metric tonnes of rice and BDT 3,685,000 cash (CHF 56,700) was released for distribution to the affected population. The injured are receiving medical treatment at neighbouring district and sub-district government hospitals and health centres.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) local units deployed RC volunteers the in aftermath of the storm to evacuate people to safer places, such as schools and other public buildings. BDRCS NHQ, with support from IFRC, has sent a team to conduct a joint rapid assessment.

Whilst the government responded swiftly, the response will undoubtedly be insufficient in terms of covering the total number of affected people. According to the immediate findings of the assessment, needs include food, emergency shelter materials and household items as well as early recovery assistance in the form of transitional shelter materials to rebuild their houses.

Table: Damage and response by the government

	District	Upazila	Most affected union	No. of families affected	No. of houses destroyed		No. of death	No. of wounded people	No. of educational institutions	Response by the government
					Fully	Partially				
1	Lalmonirhat	Sadar, Aditmari, Kaliganj and Hatibanda	Harati, Mughalhat, Panchagram	19,030	2,200	4,500	9 (4 people in Rangpur, 3 in Lalmonirhat and 1 in Bogra)	30	6	100 MT rice, BDT 500,000
2.	Rangpur	Gangachhara Taraganj, Badarganj, Kawnia, Sadar	Tepamodhupur, Uttam, Khaleya, Noahali, Laxshitari, Betkari, Tapadhan, Mominpur, Haridebpur, Chandanpath, Rajendrapur	9,000	1,265	11,388		26	44	334 MT rice, BDT 1,050,000
3	Kurigram	Sadar	Belgacha, Hulukhasa, Kanthalbari, Panchgacha, Paurasova	19,352	4,630	14,722			20	97 MT rice, BDT 277,000
4	Nilphamari	Jaldhaa, Sadar, Dimla, Kishorganj	Itakhola, Panchapukur, Kanchukta, Gorgram, Khokshabari, Khoribari, Khalishachapri, Golmunda, Mirganj	2000	600	2,500		18	12	181 MT rice, BDT 1,258,000
5.	Gaibandha	Sadullapur, Sadar	Naldanga, Kamarpara, Damudurpur, Rasulpur, Jamalpur, Bonogram, Bollowjhar, Boali, Badiakhali	2,000	700	3,500				6 MT rice, BDT 600,000, CGI sheet for school
				49,382	9,395	32,110	9	74	82	

Source: Local administration (as of 18 April 2010)

Some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are reportedly conducting assessments in the affected areas but no assistance from other organizations has been reported.

Coordination and partnerships

BDRCS local units are coordinating with local authorities in terms of exchanging information on the damage and needs of the affected population, and the response by the government. BDRCS/IFRC is in communication with traditional partners, including the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (European Commission), for possible support.

BDRCS and the IFRC have reviewed the stocks of non-food items (NFIs) available for dispatch to the affected districts. Since BDRCS is an active member of the disaster emergency response (DER) group, chaired by the ministry of food and disaster management, information/operational updates will be shared with other humanitarian agencies and government departments to avoid any overlapping of assistance.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

With the support from IFRC, BDRCS deployed 200 Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers in the immediate aftermath of the storm to evacuate people to safer places, such as schools and other public buildings. The volunteers have also assisted in fixing damaged houses. A joint BDRCS and IFRC assessment team is currently conducting a rapid needs assessment of the area. BDRCS has mobilized its fleet, warehouse and logistics resources to despatch relief items from its central warehouse in Dhaka. Unit level officers (ULO) of neighbouring districts are on stand-by to assist staff and volunteers in the affected districts. The BDRCS, IFRC and other partner national societies based in Bangladesh are exploring other methods of possible assistance.



BDRCS volunteers assisting people to fix damaged houses, in Velacopa village, Kurigram
Photo credit: BDRCS/IFRC

Available BDRCS/IFRC disaster stocks include the following NFIs: 10,000 pieces of sari, 10,000 pieces of lungis, 15,000 tarpaulins, 2,500 hygiene parcels and 9,000 jerry cans. Items needed will be utilized in the distribution with replenishments coming later.

The needs

Most of the affected population are living in the open air and are trying to construct makeshift shelters on the site of their original homes. The affected villages are largely populated by people suffering chronic poverty, experiencing seasonal unemployment, recurring floods, river erosion and the annual cold wave. It is doubtful they can rebuild their houses without external assistance. Living conditions will worsen if collapsed and damaged houses are not rebuilt before the upcoming rainy season.

Cooking facilities were lost with utensils, food stocks and other small household items adding to the misery faced by women struggling to feed their families. Crop loss means that farmers will suffer during the next harvest and will face seed scarcity in the next planting season. It is assumed that Ministry of Agriculture will address the need.

Whilst the government responded swiftly to the disaster, more resources are needed to address the needs of the thousands of affected people. The response by other NGOs and organizations have not yet been reported. According to the immediate findings of the joint BDRCS/IFRC assessment team the needs include food, emergency shelter materials and household items followed by early recovery assistance in the form of transitional shelter materials to rebuild their houses. Women, the elderly, children and persons with disability will be given priority for assistance.

The proposed operation

The proposed operation is based on available information from the affected BDRCS units, local administrations, the media and initial findings from the joint BDRCS/IFRC assessment team. With support from IFRC's DREF allocation, packages of supplementary food, NFIs (including saris and lungis) and emergency shelter materials: These will either be distributed from disaster preparedness stocks (and later replenished), or locally procured and distributed to at least 22,500 people (or 4,500 severely affected families), in four most affected districts.

Relief distributions (food, basic non-food items and emergency shelter materials)

Objective 1: 4,500 severely affected families or 22,500 people in four districts receive a package of supplementary food (15 days ration for a five member family), NFIs and emergency shelter materials

Support per family will comprise of a one time distribution as follows:

Food items 20kg rice, 5kg dahl, 2ltr edible oil, 1kg iodized salt

NFIs 1 pc sari, 1 pc lungi and 1 pc water jerrycan

Emergency shelter materials 1 pc tarpaulin, 1 pc plastic sheet, 1 kg rope and 250gm wire

Distribution plan for families per district:

Sl	District	Upazila	No. of families
1	Lalmonirhat	1. Sadar 2. Aditmari	1,000
2	Kurigram	1. Sadar 2. Rajarhat	1,200
3	Gaibandha	1. Sadullapur 2. Sadar	800
4	Rangpur	1. Gangachhara 2. Taraganj 3. Badarganj 4. Kawnia 5. Sadar	1,500
Total of families			4,500

Activities planned:

- Door to door assessments
- Beneficiary registration
- Despatch of some items (jerry cans / saris / lungis / tarpaulins) from existing BDRCS disaster preparedness stock with replenishment of most items to be done.
- Local procurement of remaining items according to the IFRC standard procedures
- Dispatch and transportation by BDRCS to the distribution sites
- Storage and distribution of relief items, especially at unit level
- Distribution by trained RCY volunteers
- Regular detailed monitoring and reporting of distributions
- Ongoing monitoring and technical advice by the BDRCS national headquarters and the IFRC

The DREF-supported distributions will be completed within two months (by 20 June 2010), stock replenishment through local procurement will be completed by 20 August 2010.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In Bangladesh:

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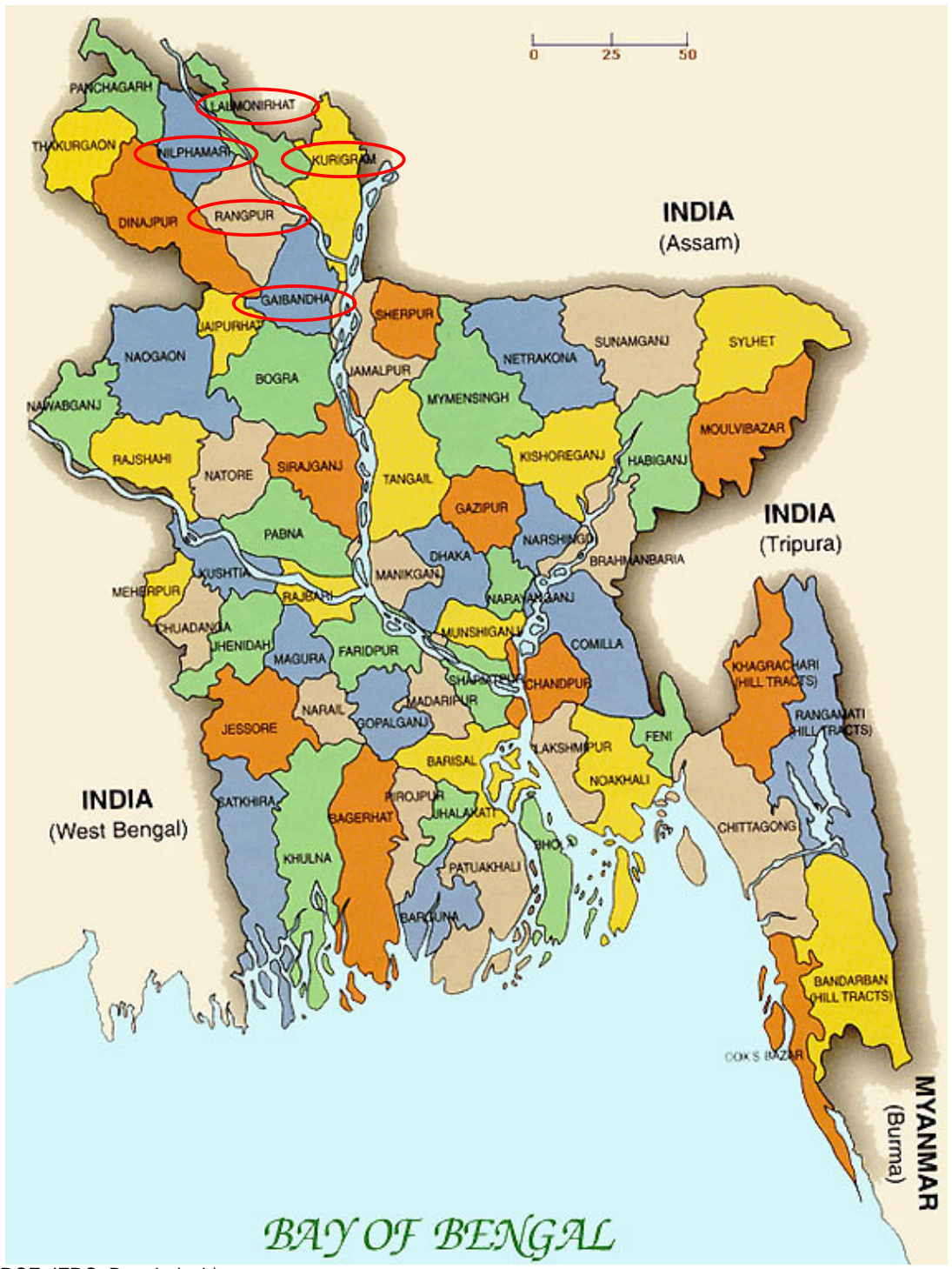
[<DREF budget and map below: click here to return to the title page>](#)

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MDRBD006

DREF BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief	102,857
Clothing & Textiles	33,571
Food	90,714
Total Supplies	227,142
Storage	794
Dsitribution & Monitoring	12,698
Transport & Vehicle Costs	5,556
Total Transport & Storage	19,048
Travel	1,270
Office Costs	1,905
Communications	952
Financial Charges	508
Total General Expenditure	4,635
Program Support	16,304
Total Programme Support	16,304
TOTAL BUDGET	267,129



(SOURCE: IFRC, Bangladesh)